

# INTERNET COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

## NOTIFICATION OF ELECTION

(PCT Rule 61.2)

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

To:

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
United States Patent and Trademark  
Office  
Box PCT  
Washington, D.C. 20231  
ÉTATS-UNIS D'AMÉRIQUE

in its capacity as elected Office

Date of mailing (day/month/year)

15 February 2000 (15.02.00)

International application No.

PCT/US99/14643

Applicant's or agent's file reference

CM2128FO/JH

International filing date (day/month/year)

29 June 1999 (29.06.99)

Priority date (day/month/year)

29 June 1998 (29.06.98)

Applicant

EHRNSPERGER, Bruno, Johannes et al

1. The designated Office is hereby notified of its election made:

☒ in the demand filed with the International Preliminary Examining Authority on:

13 January 2000 (13.01.00)

☐ in a notice effecting later election filed with the International Bureau on:

2. The election ☒ was

☐ was not

made before the expiration of 19 months from the priority date or, where Rule 32 applies, within the time limit under Rule 32.2(b).

The International Bureau of WIPO  
34, chemin des Colombettes  
1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland

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# PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

## PCT

REC'D 18 SEP 2000

WIPO

### INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference CM2128FQ/JH	<b>FOR FURTHER ACTION</b> See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/US99/14643	International filing date (day/month/year) 29/06/1999	Priority date (day/month/year) 29/06/1998
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC B01J20/28		
Applicant THE PROCTER & GAMBLE COMPANY et al.		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.


2. This REPORT consists of a total of 4 sheets, including this cover sheet.

- ☐ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I ☒ Basis of the report
- II ☐ Priority
- III ☐ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV ☐ Lack of unity of invention
- V ☒ Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI ☐ Certain documents cited
- VII ☐ Certain defects in the international application
- VIII ☐ Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand  13/01/2000	Date of completion of this report  14.09.2000
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:   European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465	Authorized officer  Thomasson, P  Telephone No. +49 89 2399 8339



# INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No. PCT/US99/14643

## I. Basis of the report

1. This report has been drawn on the basis of *(substitute sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to the report since they do not contain amendments.)*:

### Description, pages:

1-15 as originally filed

### Claims, No.:

1-11 as originally filed

2. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages:  
☐ the claims, Nos.:  
☐ the drawings, sheets:

3. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)):

4. Additional observations, if necessary:

## V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

### 1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes:	Claims	5-10
	No:	Claims	1-4, 11
Inventive step (IS)	Yes:	Claims	
	No:	Claims	1-11
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes:	Claims	1-11
	No:	Claims	

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY  
EXAMINATION REPORT**

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2. Citations and explanations

**see separate sheet**

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY  
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

International application No. PCT/US99/14643

**Re Item V**

**Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

1. Reference is made to the following document:

D1: WO 94/03214

2. Claim 1 does not meet the requirement of Article 33(2) PCT for the following reasons:

D1 discloses a device for absorbing a liquid comprising a liquid reservoir and a porous membrane (see D1: figure 1, (10) and figure 2a, (25)), the reservoir comprising an inlet and containing a porous bulk material (see D1: figure 2a, (20) and (27)). The membrane is hermetically sealed to the reservoir and fluid passing through the inlet must pass across the membrane (see D1: page 15, third paragraph - page 16, second paragraph). Furthermore the membrane has a pore size of from 5 to 30 micrometers (see D1: claim 5).

Therefore the subject-matter of claim 1 is not novel.

3. The technical features of claims 2-11 are either known from D1 or are considered to be merely one of several possibilities which the skilled person would select, in accordance with the circumstances, without the exercise of inventive skill. Consequently these claims do not meet the requirement of Article 33(2)-(3) PCT.